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[REDACTED]

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
29 January 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

PUEBLO SITREP No. 19
(As of 5 P.M. EST)

1. N Security Council President Aga Shahi cancelled Council meeting scheduled for this afternoon to give delegates more time for private talks "on an urgent basis."

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2. The North Vietnamese government today voiced its support for its North Korean "brothers and comrades in arms" in a strong statement scoring the dispatch of the Pueblo to Asian waters as "a brazen act of provocation" designed "to provoke a new war of aggression against the DPRK," and as "an encroachment on international law and the 1953 armistice agreement on Korea." The statement promised the Vietnamese people would "stand shoulder to shoulder with the brotherly Korean people . . . in whatever circumstances."

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4. Communist East European information media have given heavy pro-North Korean coverage to the Pueblo seizure, stressing the seriousness of the incident and the intelligence mission of the ship. Press reports have unanimously portrayed the US as the belligerent and some accounts have accused the US of planning the incident to divert public opinion from Hanoi's peace-talk offer. The press has given special attention to the attitudes of US "hawks", but has also reported, almost wistfully, that the views of Washington's moderates have prevailed so far.



6. The Soviet Riga-class destroyer which left the Task Force last night has begun shadowing the USS Banner--sister ship to the Pueblo. The Banner, currently scheduled to rendezvous with the Enterprise at 11:30 . . . tonight, was approached to within 450 yards by the Riga and illuminated for 10 minutes. The Riga is presently following the Banner by about 5,000 yards.